

TABLE:

Premier League Division 1

1st Grade:

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	Pt
Weston Creek	9	6	2	1	2	24	12	22
Gungahlin Juventus	9	6	1	2	1	21	14	20
Belconnen United	9	5	2	2	2	29	12	19
Monaro	9	5	2	2	2	28	12	19
Canberra Deakin	9	5	2	2	1	20	10	18
Capital City Suns	9	5	1	3	1	23	14	17
Canberra Olympic	9	4	1	4	0	17	14	13
Burns Club	9	2	0	7	0	8	33	6
Uni of Canberra	9	1	1	7	1	14	29	5
Queanbeyan City	9	0	0	9	0	12	46	0

Under 23's

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	Pt
Weston Creek	9	6	2	1	2	27	11	22
Belconnen United	9	5	3	1	3	46	18	21
Canberra Olympic	9	5	3	1	3	30	10	21
Monaro	9	5	3	1	3	34	15	21
Uni of Canberra	9	6	1	2	1	26	9	20
Burns Club	9	3	1	5	1	19	21	11
Canberra Deakin	9	3	1	5	0	26	17	10
Capital City Suns	9	2	1	6	1	27	31	8
Gungahlin Juventus	9	2	1	6	0	31	26	7
Queanbeyan City	9	0	0	9	0	31	11	0

Cosmos Youth

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	Pt
Belconnen United	9	9	0	0	0	42	7	27
Uni of Canberra	9	6	1	2	1	27	12	20
Gungahlin Juventus	8	6	0	2	0	32	11	18
Weston Creek	9	6	0	3	0	34	20	18
Canberra Deakin	9	5	1	3	1	23	20	17
Capital City Suns	9	3	1	5	1	13	24	11
Monaro	9	3	0	6	0	16	31	9
Canberra Olympic	8	2	0	6	0	9	30	6
Queanbeyan City	9	1	1	7	1	12	34	5
Burns Club	9	1	0	8	0	11	30	3

Canberra Soccer News

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TABLE:

Premier League Division 2

1st Grade:

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	Pt
O'Connor Knights	11	9	2	0	2	21	4	31
Tuggeranong United	11	7	2	2	2	30	12	25
Belwest Foxes	11	6	1	4	1	28	22	20
Cooma	11	6	1	4	0	17	17	19
ANU	11	3	3	5	3	22	21	15
Sabres FC	11	1	5	5	4	14	30	12
White Eagles	11	2	2	7	2	14	18	10
ADFA	11	1	2	8	2	9	31	7

Reserve Grade:

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	Pt
O'Connor Knights	11	9	1	1	1	27	10	29
Tuggeranong United	11	8	0	3	0	39	23	24
ANU	11	7	1	3	1	30	14	23
White Eagles	11	5	2	4	2	25	24	19
Belwest Foxes	11	6	0	5	0	35	17	18
Sabres FC	11	3	1	7	1	17	27	11
ADFA	11	2	1	8	1	17	33	8
Cooma	11	0	2	9	2	8	48	4

Rockets Youth League

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	Pt
Tuggeranong United	8	7	1	0	1	35	7	23
Belconnen United	8	6	0	2	0	29	15	18
Belwest Foxes	8	3	1	4	1	15	20	11
Radford	8	3	0	5	0	17	19	9
Southern Spirit	8	3	0	5	0	18	27	9
Delsouth	8	1	0	7	0	9	35	3

Golden Boot Chase

- 9: S. Lazzari (WCK), D. Macor (Mon)
 7: M. Whyte (Bel), D. Bartone (UoC), T. Lemezina (CCS)
 6: L. Simeonov (Mon), J. Glass (Juv)
 5: G. Cattanach (Juv), U. Castro (Oly)
 4: P. Hader (WCK), D. Stambolziev (CCS), B. Deighan (CDkn), J. Campagna (Mon)

CANBERRA SOCCER NEWS

Issue 9 - 27th June 1999

IT'S HALF-TIME

EDITORIAL:

Last week's results brought about a complete change in the structure of the Division 1 table. With both of the top two teams losing, Weston Creek Royals have moved to the front with Juventus leaping into second place.

In fact, now only 5 points separate the top 6 teams with Canberra Olympic a further four points behind this large pack.

This week we take a look at the situation of the teams at the half-way mark of the season. There is a brief view of each team and how I think they will perform over the rest of the season.

Also in this Issue we start a new column, one for the Division 2 first grade competition. It will include hopefully a match report from one of the games plus the results from all of the games, including all the scorers.

So, what has happened over the last week? Well, for those who missed it, Nick Purdue did not play for Queanbeyan last weekend. Some problems with red tape saw him miss out on the game against Canberra Olympic. Let us hope he's finally cleared for this weekend.

Not much else to say except it is getting around that time to ask for nominations for the ACT Soccer Hall of Fame. We are looking for people, especially players, who have contributed to soccer in Canberra and are no longer involved in the area of nomination.

I'm sure there are a lot of players out there who could be nominated, especially those who represented the ACT region in the 50's, 60's or 70's. Unfortunately, without premises, the Hall of Fame is in name only at present, but someday someone will be able to help and provide a place for these great people to be honoured as well as all the other items in store to be displayed.

Enjoy your soccer, Nick

So, the whistle has been blown and everyone is heading back to the sheds. The 1999 competition has reached the half-way mark and it's time to re-assess.

At the beginning of the season I made my bold predictions for who was to finish where, and so far, I am struggling. Olympic, Monaro, Deakin and Suns were to make up the Top 4 with Bels just missing out.

But at this stage of the season, we have two teams who many would not have expected to be near the top. We are of course talking about Weston Creek and Juventus.

These two are leading the competition as we move into the second half (see tables on back page), but just as important there are now six teams within less than two wins of each other and Olympic are not too far behind waiting for the others to falter.

No doubt this season we have the closest competition for quite some time. The big teams of the last couple of seasons have certainly been brought down to earth, whilst those that were considered mediocre are performing above the expectations of many.

So, where do we see everyone going to from here? Who will make up the Top Four when the time comes an, just as important, who will be on top in nine more rounds?

I think it's fair to say that each of the bottom three teams, Queanbeyan City, University of Canberra and the Burns Club are somewhat unlikely to pose a threat to making the Top Four.

Yet, for those lying above, matches against these teams will not be easy pickings. They are all improving, especially Queanbeyan City and will no doubt provide the occasional upset result.

Both Burns and University are full of youngsters, and needless to say, they can only learn from their mistakes and improve. It will be left to the experienced players and the coaching staff to carry these younger players through to be the stars of the future.

So, now onto the teams at the other end of the table. The odds for which teams will make the Top 4 and who will be the Premier have certainly changed since the beginning of the season.

First and foremost, I don't think anyone would disagree with me that Canberra Olympic has been a disappointment so far this season. At season's start, only two coaches other than Baz himself picked Olympic to win it all.

The other teams to watch were Deakin, Monaro and Belconnen. No one at all picked either Weston Creek or Gungahlin Juventus as possible Premiers. What will they say now?

The Creek have built up their team slowly over the years and really have performed to what many should have expected. They have the league's top scorer in Steve Lazzari and have partnered him with Peter Hader.

They have strengthened their midfield to include Sato and Sermano and the defence with Dale and Parragalli is close to the best in the league. At present, this is the form team and the most solid. Can they keep this up for another 9 matches?

If you thought that Weston was the surprise packet, then think again. It's really been Juventus. Billy Willox has molded a young squad with some real talent into a winning team.

The big problem, as of this week, is how they will play without their front line goalkeeper, Elias Oikarinen who has now returned to Finland.

It appears that the more experienced Tony Rinaudo and Oscar Zamora will need to put some more effort in. Still, this 'Academy' outfit will continue to perform.

Dropping down to equal third, we have the previous two front-runners of Belconnen United and Monaro, both on a bit of a slide at present.

Bels, although with an excellent youth policy which has shown results over the last few years, can't seem to get the best out of its older players. Marco Perinovic is probably a bit tired from the long EC season.

Matt Whyte, Jason Dunn and others who were the foundation of last year's Premiers all need to play much tougher football for this team to finish in the Top 4. I still believe they will struggle.

Monaro are a team with a large number of mature players and not much youth. Two great strikers in Danny Macor and Lazar Simeonov plus the likes of Jimmy Baxter, all they need to do is get their heads on straight and the results will come.

That leaves Canberra Deakin and the Capital City Suns. Both of these have improved their lineups with new signings. Deakin are looking the most dangerous of these two, especially with ex-Cosmos David Arranz and Leo Langone.

The Suns have picked up Shane Lyons and together with probably the best keeper in Canberra, Tony Giannasca, and the wiley fox, Tony Lemezina, will fight hard to the end to make sure they finish in the Top 4.

So, do I change my predictions? As much as I can see now how possibly wrong they will end up, No. Olympic, Monaro, Deakin and Suns for Top 4. Let me laugh or be laughed at.

Football Connection

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football_connection@yahoo.com



Weston Creek Royals 5



Burns Club 1

Weston Creek Royals were too good for the depleted Burns Club when they won 5-1 at Woden Park on Sunday. The result moves them to the top of the table at the half-way mark of the season after both Belconnen and Monaro faltered.

Burns without Gardiner Murray, Greg Lemin and Matt Melgaard fought hard throughout but the experience, heads-up play and just sheer finishing of Weston was what brought the Royals the win.

Weston relied on the understanding of the two Lazzari boys early in the game. Martin was providing and Steve was scoring. As early as the third minute, Martin sent a ball into the box for Steve to out-hussle his opponent and from a deflection take the ball around the keeper and score from a difficult angle.

Just under ten minutes in and Weston had doubled the scoreline. A Dion Cannell cross to the far post was headed down by Steve Lazzari for Yoshi Sato to deflect past 16 year old Joachim Milson in goals.

Burns were relying on the breakaway and only four minutes later had themselves back in the game. The ball was rolled to Scott Hayes and his shot was partially blocked. Josh Turco was on hand for the crumbs and his blast rocketed into the roof of the net.

Another three minutes and Weston had regained their two goal lead. Martin Lazzari in challenging for the ball sent it down towards the left-hand corner. Peter Hader was first to the ball and sent a great cross for Steve Lazzari to rise high and head home.

The rest of the half was dominated by Weston but they could not add to the scoreline. Solid goalkeeping from Milson robbed both Hader and Steve Lazzari from scoring, whilst when Milson was beaten, Brett McRitchie was on hand to save off the line.

The second half started as the first had finished. Burns were relying on the break more often than not and looked dangerous at times, yet it was in the midfield that most of the action took place. The success in the final third for the attackers was minimal, more often than not owing to wayward shots.

Twenty minutes into the second half and Steve Lazzari nearly had his hatrick. His low shot was only partially stopped by Milson, but as it was trickling towards goal, Grahame Archer was first to the ball and cleared it away.

Less than fifteen minutes left and the Burns boys were starting to tire. One or two were suffering from cramps and this gave Peter Hader a chance. His run towards the box saw him beat one defender and his low shot easily went past Milson and into the bottom left corner to make it 4-1.

Burns tried hard and probably provided one of the best moves of the day. Substitute Alan Strachan sent a pin-point ball through the maze of defenders to find Scott Hayes. He then switched play back with a pass to Daniel Park, but unfortunately the shot did not give justice to the build-up as it went a foot or so wide.

Finally with only a few minutes left on the clock, Josh Whittingham started and ended a move. From a long free kick he won the ball near the half-way line. A charging run at the defence found him at the edge of the box and having drawn some defenders, he layed the ball off to Hader.

Hader's cross was meant for his striking partner, who was dying to finish his hatrick, but Whittingham stuck a foot in first and deflected the ball home for his first senior league goal.

Weston's coach Jimmy Bland said "the result was never in doubt. It was difficult to motivate the players, but we did good enough to win the game."

"It was a credit to Burns though as they showed a lot of spirit and made it difficult for us, especially in the first half with the temerity of their tackles", Bland added. He also singled out Peter Hader as being the best on the field for the day.

For Burns, Steve Bryant was not too unhappy with the team's performance. "The boys have done alright today. They did not disgrace themselves. We're still learning and it will take time to get used to the pace of the game."



University of Canberra 0



Gungahlin Juventus 2

by Greg Welsh

Gungahlin Juventus notched up their sixth consecutive win with a 2-0 victory over a committed University of Canberra side in their ACT Premier League clash at the University grounds on Sunday.

Despite dominating throughout in terms of possession and field position, the students could not breach the Juventus backline, and were made to pay for two soft goals in the first half.

The first of these came just six minutes into the game when Yosip Zamora's inswinging corner was flicked on at the near post, and eluded a number of University defenders before falling at the feet of Aidan Griffiths.

The Juventus midfielder made the most of the opportunity by blasting the ball into the far corner of the net with a sweetly-timed effort.

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University attempted to hit back immediately, and only Juventus goalkeeper Elias Oikarinen prevented strikes from Paul Panebianco and Dominic Bartone finding their target.

Juventus went further ahead five minutes from half-time due to another defensive lapse by University. A through ball from George Cattanach looked too heavily weighted for the pursuing John Glass, but University defender Nick Behr, in attempting to shepherd the ball to safety, allowed the Juventus striker to nip in and poke the ball past keeper Chris Freeman.

University came out attacking once more after the break, but despite being camped in the Juventus half for most of the remainder, were unable to create quality chances for strikers Bartone and Simon Foxhill.

In fact Juventus almost went further ahead in the 70th minute during one of their rare attacking forays, when Glass played a deft one-two with Brad Smith and forged into the University penalty area.

However Freeman was quick off his line on this occasion, and courageously plucked the ball from Glass' bootlaces.

Juventus coach Billy Willox later admitted the game was a battle for his side. "You can't play well all the time," he said. "We done enough. We just done what we had to do in the first-half and finished it off."

An obviously frustrated Rod Lynes was meanwhile left to rue his team's defensive blunders. "Commitment-wise we were excellent," he said. "We played for ninety minutes. We didn't have much luck in front of goal - things didn't go our way. We just shot ourselves in the foot."



Canberra Olympic 6



Queanbeyan City lions 2

Geoff Howarth showed himself as a game breaker when he came on as a substitute with only half an hour to go and scored a hatrick thus assuring a ten-man Canberra Olympic of a 6-2 victory over Queanbeyan City Lions at O'Connor Oval.

Not only did he score three, but Howarth also missed a penalty. But up to that stage it was anyone's game with the scores level.

Olympic's Pino Seminara was the highlight of the first 15 minutes when he scored early to give his side the lead and then saved a shot on the line with his hand, only to be sent off.

Cosmos defender, Danny Burt took the penalty kick but skyed his shot to the dismay of the Queanbeyan fans. City were also without their other Cosmos player, Nick Purdue, apparently owing to a bureaucratic bungle.

Marcello Fernandez made it two for Olympic before Queanbeyan staged a comeback. Goran Veljanovski potted two to bring the scores level and make a real game of it.

The two teams traded blows for the fifteen minutes around half time with the play very even. If anything Queanbeyan looked to be the better chance of the two teams to go on with it, especially with their man advantage.

Then on came Howarth. Within a minute, he had restored Olympic's lead and not long after had secured his second and a little breathing space for his team.

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Robbie Grande came in with the fifth goal for Olympic before they were awarded a penalty. Howarth took the shot only to see Jovan Naumovski, in his comeback game, save.

But Howarth was not to be denied his hatrick when a second penalty was awarded. Again Howarth stepped up and his placement easily beat Naumovski.

Olympic coach Baz Giampaolo was not all too pleased with his team's performance, even with the win. "We're a Jekyll and Hyde team. We need more consistency."



Monaro 0



Capital City Suns 1

The Capital City Suns emerged victors 1-0 over Monaro at Riverside Stadium in what has been described as one of the best games this season involving Premier League Division 1 teams.

The mixture of pace and skills were blended well with both teams and this gave the spectators much to enjoy.

The solitary goal of the match came from Shane Lyons, but the buildup work of Ilija Prenzoski and Tony Lemezina performing one-twos was a sight to be seen. Then the final volley from Lyons gave the Monaro keeper, Tony Guarino, absolutely no chance.

The Suns could have scored another when Lemezina chipped from 20m out only to see the keeper just get his fingertips to the ball and push it over the bar.

Monaro, although without striker Lazar Simeonov, tried very hard. Their hopes weren't helped late in the game when Daryl North was sent off with ten minutes remaining for fouling Lemezina as he was heading towards goal.

Suns were also unfortunate on two occasions when they felt they had reasonable grounds for a penalty. Both incidents involved the Monaro keeper and Lemezina.

Yet it was the solid backline with a man-of-the-match performance from Tai Tran that stopped any threatening chances for Monaro.

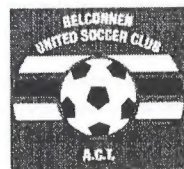
Suns coach Bill Dojcinovski was understandably pleased with the result. "We could have won by three or four goals."

"It was a team performance, but most importantly the youngsters in the team are coming through and playing very well melding into the team", Dojcinovski added.

Monaro were being coached by assistant Tony Brennan in Andrew Monterosso's absence. Brennan said "their defence was superb. We hardly had a shot during the whole game. And then our best player got sent off."



Canberra Deakin 3



Belconnen United 2

Canberra Deakin have continued on their merry way moving closer to the top four when they defeated previous leaders Belconnen United 3-2 at Deakin Oval.

New signing Leo Langone, fresh from a rest after playing for the Cosmos, stamped himself on the match scoring one goal and setting up another.

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Deakin have improved dramatically since their early season slump. New acquisitions have also improved the team's run of success. To add to Langone, another Cosmos player, David Arranz, joined the team on the weekend.

Within the first 12 minutes, Deakin had the game by the scruff of the neck. First Langone was brought down by Jason Dunn in the box. Ben Deighan put away the penalty kick. Then Anthony Barac put in the second only a few minutes afterwards.

Into the second period and substitute Matt Whyte gave Belconnen some hope when he pulled one back, but it took just over ten more minutes for Langone to show some magic. He took on and beat three players before using the outside of his right foot to send the ball into the top right corner.

With only a few minutes left on the clock, Ray Junna scored a second for Belconnen to set up what was to be a close finish. Time ran out and Deakin had scored a solid victory.

Deakin coach Bernie Lustica said "I can't praise my team enough - they have obviously got some potential. We played very well moving the ball well around the field."

Bels coach Lino Fiorese stated that "we need to knuckle down defensively and to take our chances up front."

HELP

We are looking for part-time budding journalists. We need people who can go out to a game on a Saturday or Sunday, make up a match report and file it to the Editor before 6pm on a Sunday.

If you are interested, please contact the Editor on either 6249 3833 during work hours or by e-mail on Nick.Guoth@anu.edu.au

The Premier League Division 2 Page

Welcome to the new addition to Canberra Soccer News. In this page I hope to be able to keep all up to date with the happenings of the second division.

Even though there is no promotion or relegation after this season, teams in the higher Division will need to fulfil certain criteria as put forward by Soccer Canberra.

Any of the Division 2 clubs could move forward, so I thought it would be best to keep you all in touch with what is happening just one step down the ladder.

I hope to have a match report from one game each week if at all possible plus the scores and scorers from each of the other games. For those who do not know, Division 2 have 8 teams who play each other 3 times and thus there are matches every weekend (21 rounds).

The tables for Division 2 1st grade and reserve grade are on the back page, and we are around the middle of the season for them. The Burns Club won the Premiership in 1998 and as we all know have moved up to Division 1.

Results from Saturday June 19

Belwest Foxes 5 (N. Barancewicz 3, S. Wise, C. Behnke) ADFA 1 (R. Devetak)

Cooma 1 (T. Podelsak) ANU 2 (R. Bennett, R. Stoddart)

White Eagles 3 (F. Flores, N. Aleksic, T. Hayder) Sabres FC 4 (T. Donaldson 3, W. Schneider)

Tuggeranong United 1 (A. Bradford) O'Connor Knights 1 (D. Matic)

The above results only saw a minor change in the table with Belwest Foxes moving ahead of Cooma after their home loss to ANU. The students are still a little way from making the Top 4 whilst O'Connor Knights look very good for taking the Premiership, even as early as now.

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CSN Predictions for Week 10

Belconnen United v Capital City Suns
Hawker Oval: 2pm [Round 1: Bels 1-0]
Can Belconnen stop their worst slide in 5 years of 2 losses in a row? The midfield looks the key to this game and if Bels want to get anything out of this game they need to control it and not let the Suns through Ilija Prenzoski and Shane Lyons run the game.

PICK: CAPITAL CITY SUNS

Canberra Deakin v Weston Creek Royals
Deakin Oval: 2pm [Round 1: Weston 1:0]
What a game to play after you have taken the lead in the Premiership for the first time in who know's how long. Deakin have improved beyond doubt and are more than threatening the Top 4. This could be the game of the season.
PICK: CANBERRA DEAKIN

Monaro v Gungahlin Juventus
Riverside Stadium: 2pm [Round 1: 1-1 Draw]
The Italian derby and what a cracker this one should be. Juve have now won 6 straight and probably face their toughest match for some time. Monaro, on the other hand are in a slide along with Belconnen. They have to find the scoring touch once again. This is a do or die game for them.
PICK: GUNGAHLIN JUVENTUS

Uni of Canberra v Queanbeyan City Lions
Uni of Canberra: 2pm [Round 1: Uni 6-1]
Just as important, if not more, to the two teams involved is this game. It is the classic 6-point match. Queanbeyan have certainly improved since their early season thrashings. Hopefully Nick Purdue will finally be available. Will Uni be able to contain the new look Lions or will Queanbeyan be celebrating their first victory?
PICK: DRAW

Canberra Olympic v Burns Club
O'Connor Oval: 2pm [Round 1: Olympic 3-0]
Of all the games, this is the easiest to pick. Burns are slowly improving, but without key players, it will be hard to do well against an Olympic side who must win nearly every game they play from now on.
PICK: CANBERRA OLYMPIC